

**KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7821503460>

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Meeting Agenda

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Call to Order

**1. Preliminary Matters**

- a) Introductions
- b) Additions or Corrections to the Agenda
- c) Adoption of the Board Agenda

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Grant Subcommittee Items:**

**Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Items**

Updates & Discussion:

Applications:

- 1. City of Kent - Urban Natural Resources Management Program – Phase 1
- 2. Environmental Science Center -Environmental Heroes 2022-23: Improving Watershed Health Through Education and Outreach (8 jurisdictions pooled their funds for this project)

Amendments: None

Close outs:

- 1. Hip Hop is Green – Cherry Street Farm, Lab & Culinary Anthropology
- 2. King County - 2021 Keeping Farmers Farming, King County Agriculture Program

**Regional Food System Grant Program Items**

# Urban Natural Resources Management Program – Phase 1

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## *Member Jurisdiction Grant Program*

### ***Kent***

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Garin Lee  
220 4th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032-5895

### ***Margaret Wagner***

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[mwagner@kentwa.gov](mailto:mwagner@kentwa.gov)

# Application Form

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## *Summary Information*

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### **Project Title\***

Urban Natural Resources Management Program – Phase 1

### **Project Description - Short\***

Provide a short, concise description of the project no more than two or three sentences.

As part of a multi-phase approach to improve degraded natural areas, Kent Parks is seeking support to develop a natural resource management program, while maintaining limited ongoing projects at priority sites and community engagement activities.

### **Principal Partners (if any)**

### **Amount of KCD Funding Requested\***

You will need to upload a detailed budget document before you submit your application. Please make sure the amount requested and total project cost amounts you list here match the amounts in the uploaded budget document.

\$80,000.00

### **Total Project Cost\***

\$120,625.00

### **Total Matching Funds (optional)**

\$40,625.00

### **Project Start Date\***

01/01/2022

### **Project End Date\***

12/31/2022

## Close Date

### Project Location\*

Address, Parcel #, OR L&L Points, for site specific projects only.

If more than two locations, state “multiple” and explain.

Multiple. Staff will be assessing, prioritizing, and improving overall management of natural area assets in City of Kent Parks, including areas with assets such as wetlands, forests, trails, and urban trees. (see attached park list).

### Jurisdiction

If the applicant is not a city or jurisdiction, please type in the city or jurisdiction this project is located in.

### Is your project on public or private land?\*

Public

### State Legislative District #\*

Click here to find it on the web. If your project resides in more than one district, type in the primary district or type in zero.

33

### King County District #\*

Click here to find it on the web. If your project resides in more than one district, type in the primary district or type in zero.

5

## *Narratives, Budget, & Attachments*

### Project Description - Detailed\*

Provide a description of the project that summarizes what you will do, how you will do it, and why you will do it. Describe target audience, outcomes, objectives and general timelines.

In 2016, the Parks, Recreation & Community Services team created a “Park and Open Space Plan” which assessed parks, prioritized service levels, and identified key updates needed within an aging park system. However, the plan mainly focused on the developed areas of the park. The next logical step is to develop a similar plan for our urban-natural areas and create a template for individual site management plans.

The Green Kent Partnership kicked off in 2009 with the development of a 20-Year Park and Natural Area Management Plan. Its primary goal was to actively manage all 1,189 acres of Kent’s parks and natural areas in 20 years. Full time staff positions/program budget weren’t funded to support goals outlined in 20-year plan. Relying almost entirely on volunteers the Green Kent Program accomplished less than 1% of acreage enrollment goals after 9 years.

While the Green Kent Partnership was and could continue to be an impressive community engagement coalition around natural resources in Kent, we aim to develop a new plan that considers all aspects of urban-natural area management, with volunteer and community engagement as one component. By taking a more comprehensive approach, we can develop a management plan that allows staff to more effectively care for these areas. We have identified 5 key goals we plan to focus on. These five goals are: safety, reinvestment, connection, management and stewardship.

#### Goal Descriptions:

- Goal 1: Safety

In a 2018 survey, 42% of respondents indicated they were prevented from using a park due to safety concerns. By actively managing vegetation on trails, experimenting with new techniques, and consulting with other city departments to establish better management practices, we hope to address these concerns. As a result, we predict to see a decrease in the percentage of people concerned with safety in parks in future surveys.

- Goal 2: Reinvestment

One of the biggest challenges to managing natural areas has always been the availability of sustainable funding. With a more comprehensive plan that highlights how urban natural spaces contribute to community health and essential services of parks, we hope to leverage additional resources to reinvest in natural areas. The suite of Green Kent sites that have had significant past investment but are in danger of being re-infested with invasive species for want of long-term maintenance makes this a key time to act on reinvestment.

- Goal 3: Connection

Partnerships will be key to the success of any community engagement opportunities we wish to provide in the future, so we will be identifying, engaging, and re-engaging organizations and businesses who could be potential partners. These partners may act as event sponsors, invest in projects, provide in-kind donations, act as consultants, provide education and more. We will also be working on improving in-house collaboration with other city departments to share and establish best management practices.

- Goal 4: Management

Of significant importance is the goal to reclaim responsibility of managing natural areas. To do so, we will need to build a team dedicated to actively managing natural spaces and providing various new opportunities for Kent residents to engage with these sites. However, before we can begin implementing projects, we first need to develop the plan to focus efforts where they will be most beneficial.

As a result, we are asking for support from KCD for 3 part-time staff who will be focused on compiling information on the current condition of our natural assets, conducting ongoing community engagement, and building site management plans for the sites selected to host a limited number of volunteer events while full time staff establish a program plan and internal funding request. These people will be imperative to laying the foundation for future development and implementation of natural resource and urban forestry plans.

- Goal 5: Stewardship

We aim to establish a full stewardship program, however the sustainability of such a program will be highly dependent on the success of the first 4 goals. Some components of this program will be based on the Green Kent Partnership; however, opportunities will differ and include consideration for limiting factors and site needs for staff and crew time. With proper support in place, we can provide various volunteer opportunities, outdoor educational programs and invest in outreach & educational media that promotes stewardship and care for parks and natural spaces.

In addition to identifying our five main goals, we have begun drafting a valuation system that assessed natural assets such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes, streams & rivers. These “Conservation Values” will help focus our efforts to parks where they will have the most meaningful impact.

#### Natural Resource Management Program

We estimate that it will be 7-10 years from the initial program development to the first re-assessment. We expect some of these phases to overlap depending on the progress of the other phases and what additional resources we obtain. As of 2021, we have made some progress in Phase 1, 2, & 3. The Phases are as follows:

- Phase 1 (2020-2025) – Establish Initial Team, Develop Plans, Evaluate Capacity:

Obtaining sustainable funding for new operations programs will be a challenge. During the first phase, KCD & other funds will support staff positions whose focus will be to gather & compile data, maintain volunteer relations by hosting annual events, and support the Natural Resources Specialist in research and program development. Site inventory information gathered will be important to ascertaining the status of natural assets in parks as well as providing data which can be used to secure additional funding in the future.

In 2020-21 staff made some progress in these efforts despite the impact of the COVID pandemic. A key aspect of that was coordinating with Davey Resource Group to develop the first draft of the Parks Urban Forestry Management Plan. This plan will serve as a guiding document for future natural resource staff when managing trees in more developed areas of parks. Additionally, once complete, the plan will contain valuable information on the value of trees and the ecosystem services they provide. This information can then be utilized to the support efforts to secure further funding.

In early 2021, Parks Operations also hired a new full time Natural Resources Specialist position to consolidate and expand natural resources and site management, in coordination with existing staff expertise in urban forestry. Throughout the next 5 years, there will be an emphasis on team building and sustainable program development.

With our capacity to host educational events limited currently for the foreseeable future, we will be providing support to the Environmental Science Center who aim to utilize a portion of the jurisdictional grant to support school programs which make use of Kent parks

- Phase 2 (2022-2030) - Natural Areas Management Program Development:

This phase will involve capacity building, drafting park specific plans for our high profile and ecologically valuable parks, and initial implementation of a natural resources site management plan template. The new Natural Resource Specialist, supported by the positions funded with KCD funds, will initially be focused on implementing and continuing to edit plans as they fit within existing capacity, investing time in team expansion (based on grants and budget cycle), maintaining partnerships as effectively as possible, coordinating across departments and agencies, and supporting ongoing volunteer event efforts.

- Phase 3 (2020 & onward) – Deepen/Expand Partnerships & Community Engagement Strategies, develop more Site-Specific Management Plans, Rebuild more robust Volunteer Program

- Phase 4 (2026 & onward) - Expand Team, Evaluate Role of Natural Resources Team in Park Operations Overall, Increase capacity for more complex Project Management:

This phase will involve establishing (and re-establishing) educational programs and developing program outreach materials tailored to more in-depth environmental engagement through Kent Parks' natural resources. .

- Phase 5 (2030, 2040 etc.) - Assess, Improve & Adapt

It is our goal to have an adaptable plan that helps implement management practices based on the best science available, but that also consider the unique challenges of urban natural areas. As a result, we can more effectively work towards providing safe and beautiful natural spaces for the enjoyment of the community.

## Project Activities and Measurable Results\*

List specific project activities to be completed with KCD grant funds and the associated outcomes or measurable results, and timeline.

Community Engagement Coordination

1. Implementation of 5 annual events including Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, Releaf, Conservation Day, and Arbor Day.
2. Coordinate (as needed) access and materials to parks for Environmental Science Center educational programs and Green River Coalition volunteer events.
3. Identify potential partners for improvements to community engagement events and future programs.

#### Site Surveys, Plans, and Data Management

1. Conduct site inventories of current resource conditions and future management needs, including developing survey methods.
2. Monitor & track existing Green Kent steward site reversion due to lack of management.
3. Finish inventory of standalone Parks Trees and create SOP for updating Tree Keeper with recent tree work.
4. Establish a Site Management Plan template and begin development of site-specific plans for 2-3 high profile Kent Parks natural areas.
5. Manage data collected during site surveys and site management plan development.

#### Program Plans and Development

1. Collaborate with Urban Forestry staff on ways to incorporate new Parks Urban Forestry Plan into formulating plan for priority natural resources.
2. Submit subsequent KCD application for the next phases of building the natural resources program.
3. Provide or compile information as requested for use during council updates on Green Kent, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources.
4. Support development of Parks Urban Forestry Management Plan (PUFMP)
5. Research additional funding sources.

#### Ecological Vegetation Management

1. Conduct limited site management activities as capacity and prioritization allows.
2. Assist Urban Forestry Lead in tree removal work or assessments.
3. Coordinate with Earth corps, or other contractors, to utilize crews in natural areas in need of dire management and/or provide consultation for furthering data gathering efforts.

#### Outcomes and Measurable Results:

- 5 volunteer events hosted (volunteer hours, plants planted, invasive species cleared will be reported)
- Site surveys conducted (number of sites, number of acres, number of former Green Kent sites monitored will be reported)
- Tree inventories conducted (number of sites, number of acres, number of trees, etc)
- 2 presentations to internal or external stakeholders (audience numbers and basic demographics will be reported)
- Support of ESC and GRC events (number and nature of events will be reported)
- Development of a key community partnerships tracking and brainstorming document
- Site specific management activities will be summarized by site, acreage, activity, invasives removed, and plants planted (as applicable).
- Tree management and assessment activities will be summarized by site, acreage, activity, invasives removed, and plants planted (as applicable).
- Site management plan template developed (will be submitted in final report)
- Parks Urban Forest Management Plan
- Park Natural Resources Management Program Overview
- Initial Conservation Value and Prioritization of site management activities

## Project Budget and Expenses\*

Fill out and upload separate Application Budget Form also available on the KCD Member Jurisdiction Grant Program website. Budget must be detailed with footnotes, appropriate and reasonable, *meeting state auditor/GAAP guidelines*. Please do not use forms from previous applications. Please only upload the form linked above. Thank you!

KCD Budget 2022\_KentParks\_Requested.xlsx

## Member Jurisdiction Authorization Letter

If you are a nonprofit organization seeking Member Jurisdiction funding, you must upload written authorization from the Member Jurisdiction to apply for funding. This can be in the form of a letter or scanned copy of an email.

## Additional Attachments

Upload any photos or maps of your project here. Only one file will be accepted. Please combine multiple files into one if possible.

SiteList\_KentParks\_NRMProgram\_2022.pdf

## Natural Resource Improvement Actions- Criteria Checklist

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**You must select at least one natural resource improvement action, otherwise your application is not eligible.** However, please only select "yes" below the action that your project **directly** addresses.

## Direct Improvement of Natural Resource Conditions\*

To improve landscape and natural resource conditions as a result of direct action that enhances water quality, protects and conserves soils, implements ecosystem restoration and preservation projects (*examples include supporting private property owners with land stewardship, water quality, aquatic and wildlife habitat resources, removal of invasive weeds, stewardship on public land*)

**Does your project directly address this issue?**

Yes

## Education and Outreach\*

To raise awareness, deepen knowledge, and change behaviors of residents, landowners, and other land managers and organizations to practice exemplary stewardship of natural resources (*examples include education about stormwater management; the value of farmland, local farms and food systems, shorelines, salmon habitat, forests and other ecosystems*)

**Does your project directly address this issue?**

Yes



## Pilot and Demonstration Projects\*

To test and/or improve concepts and/or approaches in natural resource management that can be replicated by others *(examples include low impact development or green infrastructure demonstration projects, development of new best management practices, distribution of local farm products, urban agriculture (e.g. farmers markets and backyard food production to promote or support social economic independence and healthy living); technological innovation for natural resource conservation)*

Does your project directly address this issue?

No

## Capacity Building\*

To enhance the ability of organizations, agencies, residential landowners and other land owners and managers to have knowledge, skills, tools, support systems and technical resources to implement exemplary best management practices and deliver natural resource management actions on the ground *(examples include urban agriculture development, assistance to and inclusion of private property owners, preservation, restoration, and/or expansion of urban and/or rural agricultural lands, rural and urban forest lands, riparian restoration and stewardship on private and public lands)*

Does your project directly address this issue?

Yes

## Project Type\*

Education  
Forestry, Urban

## KCD Acknowledgement and Signature

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By signing below, the applicant agrees to acknowledge King Conservation District funding by placing the KCD-provided logo on signs, materials, and documents produced as part of the above proposal. In addition, the applicant will notify KCD of public events and activities funded by the KCD.

\*

I have read the above paragraph about acknowledging KCD and I will use the provided logo.

## Authorized Applicant Electronic Signature\*

Please enter your full name to sign and agree to the above.

Margaret Wagner

**Title**

Natural Resources Specialist

**Date\***

03/01/2022

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- KCD Budget 2022\_KentParks\_Requested.xlsx
- SiteList\_KentParks\_NRMProgram\_2022.pdf



# Member Jurisdiction Grant Program

## Grant Application Project Budget Form

Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship

Project Name	Urban-Natural Area Management Plan (Phase 1)			
Applicant	City of Kent			
Contact	Margaret Wagner			
Mailing Address	5821 S 240th St, Kent, WA 98032			
E-mail	<a href="mailto:mwagner@kentwa.gov">mwagner@kentwa.gov</a>	Project Start Date:	1/1/2022	
Phone	206-798-7894	Project End Date:	12/31/2022	
<b>Please provide detailed budget information below. Itemize categories such as supplies, contracted services with footnotes and detailed descriptions below</b>				
Budget Item	KCD Funds	Other Funds	Other Funds	Total
		City of Kent	(identify source and status of matching funds here ex. DON Small and Simple - Secured)	
Salaries & Benefits	\$75,000	\$35,625		\$110,625
Travel/ Meals/ Mileage (for - volunteers, staff)				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
Office Supplies				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
Field Supplies	\$4,000			\$4,000
Contracted/ Professional Services				\$0
Permits				\$0
Other: Event Support		\$5,000		\$5,000
Other: Misc Expenses	\$1,000			\$1,000
Other: (specify)				\$0
Other: (specify)				\$0
Other: (specify)				\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$40,625</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$120,625</b>

Total Project Cost	\$120,625
Total Match	\$40,625
Amount of KCD Funding Requested	\$80,000
Match Percentage	34%

Footnotes: see budget detail below



PARK/PROPERTY	TYPE	Acres
Lake Fenwick Park	Large Natural Area	141
Clark Lake Park	Large Natural Area	125
Mill Creek Earthworks Park	Large Natural Area	112
277th Street Corridor Trail	Large Natural Area	53
North Meridian Park	Park with Natural Area	27
Morrill Meadows Park	Park with Natural Area	13
Scenic Hill Park	Park with Natural Area	4
Garrison Creek Park	Park with Natural Area	5
Chestnut Ridge Park	Park with Natural Area	3
Anderson Park	Park with Natural Assets	1
Lake Meridian	Park with Natural Assets	16
Riverview Park	Park with Natural Assets	14
Three Friends Fishing Hole	Park with Natural Assets	3
Glenn Nelson Park	Park with Natural Assets	10
Briscoe Park	Park with Natural Assets	7
Arbor Heights 360°	Park with Natural Assets	3
Old Fishing Hole	Park with Natural Assets	6
West Fenwick Park	Park with Natural Assets	37
Springwood Park	Park with Natural Assets	10
Turnkey Park	Park with Natural Assets	7
Anderson Greenbelt	Small Natural Area	4
Campus Park	Small Natural Area	12
Park Orchard Park	Small Natural Area	6
Pine Tree Park	Small Natural Area	TBD
Cottonwood Grove Park	Small Natural Area	1
Springbrook Greenbelt	Small Natural Area	5
Salt Air Vista	Small Natural Area	2
Huse Property	Undeveloped Property	34
Panther Lake	Undeveloped Property	TBD
132nd Avenue property	Undeveloped Property	5
272nd Property	Undeveloped Property	4
		670

PARK/PROPERTY TYPES	DEFINITION
Large Natural Area	A park consisting mainly of a large area with mostly unfragmented natural assets such as forest, meadow, grasslands, wetlands, etc.
Park with Natural Assets	A developed park with a few scattered natural assets such as a detention pond, individual trees, individual bodies of water or small clumps of trees.
Park with Natural Area	A developed park with several natural assets located in the same unfragmented area. Typically consisting of an unmanaged or partially managed forested area near a playground, small trail, or ballfield.
Small Natural Area	A small park, usually forested and/or having some open space and trails, but typically surrounded by housing or other privately owned parcels
Undeveloped Property	A city owned property slated for potential development into a park, but currently having natural assets.

# Environmental Heroes 2022-23: Improving Watershed Health Through Education and Outreach

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*Member Jurisdiction Grant Program*

## ***Environmental Science Center***

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Dr. Tara Luckie  
126 SW 148th Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

tara@environmentalsciencecenter.org  
O: 206-248-4266

## ***Kelly Steffen***

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kelly@environmentalsciencecenter.org

# Application Form

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## *Summary Information*

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### **Project Title\***

Environmental Heroes 2022-23: Improving Watershed Health Through Education and Outreach

### **Project Description - Short\***

Provide a short, concise description of the project no more than two or three sentences.

Environmental Science Center will increase public awareness of watershed health and salmon habitat protection through student field study programs. Students and their families learn positive behavior changes to improve water quality of Puget Sound.

### **Principal Partners (if any)**

Cities of Renton, Burien, Normandy Park, Des Moines, Tukwila, Auburn, SeaTac, and Kent

### **Amount of KCD Funding Requested\***

You will need to upload a detailed budget document before you submit your application. Please make sure the amount requested and total project cost amounts you list here match the amounts in the uploaded budget document.

\$40,000.00

### **Total Project Cost\***

\$465,096.00

### **Total Matching Funds (optional)**

\$222,278.00

### **Project Start Date\***

04/01/2022

### **Project End Date\***

02/29/2024



## Close Date

### Project Location\*

Address, Parcel #, OR L&L Points, for site specific projects only.

If more than two locations, state “multiple” and explain.

Multiple: Field studies take place at Seahurst Park (Burien), The Cove (Normandy Park), Renton Community Center (Renton), Mill Creek Earthworks Park (Kent), Clark Lake (Kent), Mary Olson Farm (Auburn)

### Jurisdiction

If the applicant is not a city or jurisdiction, please type in the city or jurisdiction this project is located in.

Burien

### Is your project on public or private land?\*

Public

### State Legislative District #\*

Click here to find it on the web. If your project resides in more than one district, type in the primary district or type in zero.

0

### King County District #\*

Click here to find it on the web. If your project resides in more than one district, type in the primary district or type in zero.

0

## *Narratives, Budget, & Attachments*

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### Project Description - Detailed\*

Provide a description of the project that summarizes what you will do, how you will do it, and why you will do it. Describe target audience, outcomes, objectives and general timelines.

The Environmental Science Center (ESC) promotes environmental stewardship and academic achievement through science-based education. We help people feel a deeper connection and a motivation to

want to protect the environment by using nature as our teacher at local beaches, streams, forests, school gardens, and classrooms.

This project is for our two school-based field programs – Salmon Heroes and Beach Heroes. Salmon and Beach Heroes are high-quality, small-group science experiences for K-8 youth in south King County using self-directed, experiential learning to improve science literacy and increase healthy every-day choices that affect the Salish Sea community. Grant support allows us to remove participation barriers to these experiences by providing transportation subsidies and offering the programs at no or highly-reduced cost to participants.

Both Salmon Heroes and Beach Heroes work with several school districts in the south King County region including Highline (cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, and SeaTac, along with unincorporated King County), Tukwila, Renton, Kent and Auburn. Beach Heroes is designed for K-3rd grade classes while Salmon Heroes works with 4th-8th grade classes. A Salmon Heroes teacher professional development component also reaches 4th-8th grade teachers throughout all the districts listed above.

#### Beach Heroes Details:

ESC's Beach Heroes program for K-3rd grade students integrates current environmental issues into marine-organism science units to help students connect with and better understand the nearshore environment. Students are mentored and encouraged to hone science skills such as observation and inquiry and spend time during the program improving the quality of the habitat.

ESC's Beach Heroes program goal is to introduce local students to the organisms found during low-tide, work to clean up this environment by removing trash, and offer knowledge and resources for them to deepen their relationship with this unique habitat.

#### The two parts of Beach Heroes are:

- Pre-field study classroom visit (1-hour): An ESC naturalist first visits the classroom to teach about marine invertebrates and the nearshore habitat. Students prepare a beach field journal to bring on their field trip.
- Outdoor field-study at Seahurst Beach (2-hours): All students then visit Seahurst Park in Burien for two hours during a low-tide. They work in small, naturalist-led groups to explore the beach and partake in hands-on activity to learn about the importance of forage fish. While exploring with their naturalist, students remove trash they find along the beach. Stewardship messaging is emphasized to ensure explorations do not negatively contribute to environmental impact.
- Advanced Beach Heroes option: Students in 2nd or 3rd grade who may have already participated in the Beach Heroes program in previous years have the option to participate as Advanced Beach Heroes. Advanced Beach Heroes students follow a similar program listed above with an additional classroom lesson to practice with the scientific tools they will be using in the field. During their two-hour field study, the students will spend part of their time collecting data for their community science project.

#### Beach Heroes Objectives:

Student will develop observation skills and be encouraged to safely explore and ask questions about the animals and plants on our Pacific Northwest beaches. Students will learn how to become good stewards of the beach to protect the habitat.

#### Beach Heroes Outcomes:

Beach Heroes will serve 80 classes (approximately 1,600 students) during our spring 2022 field season. Beach Heroes will serve an additional 80 classes during our spring 2023 field season (160 classes and 3,200 students total). The program is evaluated using pre- and post-program assessments. These assessments ask students to define a healthy habitat and ways they can take personal action to keep the beach healthy and protect the animals that live in this habitat. Beach Heroes will be deemed successful if 70% of students show 1) increased knowledge of the concepts covered and 2) improved social responsibility.

#### Beach Heroes General Timeline:

- Late Winter: Edit curriculum, recruit classes (reach out to schools with more than 45% of students qualifying for free and reduced-priced meals first), hire and train naturalists
- Spring: Teach Beach Heroes program to south King County schools (1-hour classroom program and 2-hour field study)
- Summer: Analyze teacher evaluations, student pre- and post-assessments, debrief naturalists, and write program reports

#### Salmon Heroes Details:

Salmon Heroes is a four-part, six-hour education and stewardship program. Using salmon as a local phenomenon to center the program, Salmon Heroes goals are to improve environmental literacy by using field-based education experiences to encourage positive connections to local, natural settings, to increase awareness and understanding of limiting factors (including the local water quality) to salmon survival, and to improve stewardship behaviors to keep our waters healthy for salmon and humans alike. During Salmon Heroes, students are investigating the questions “Is this a healthy watershed for salmon survival?” and “How do human activities impact the watershed?”. A complimentary teacher professional development component will help give teacher confidence to complete school campus stewardship action projects.

#### The four parts of Salmon Heroes are:

- Pre-field study classroom visit (1-hour): During the initial classroom lesson, students will engage in hands-on activities that explore the water quality and habitat needs of salmon as well as the challenges to survival that salmon face during each stage of their life cycle.
- Outdoor field study at local stream or river (3-hours): During the three-hour outdoor field study at a salmon-bearing stream or river in their local watershed, students develop inquiry skills and learn through hands-on exploration at the following stations: water quality testing, nature hike, site history and watershed issues, salmon dissection and scientific illustration
- Post-field study classroom visit (1-hour): During the synthesis lesson, students will analyze the water quality data they collected in the field. Students lead discussions of potential sources for common stormwater pollutants (such as tire dust, fertilizer, dog waste, carbon dioxide, and car oil) and work in small groups to brainstorm positive actions they can take in their community and with their families. Students also see a real-world solution by using natural filtering materials such as rocks, mulch, and moss to help filter a dirty stormwater sample.
- (Optional) School Campus Environmental Action Project: Students will then have the skills and knowledge to take action and participate in an optional stewardship project on their school grounds. Optional activities include trash pick-up, storm drain stenciling, or campus restoration project.

#### Salmon Heroes Objectives:

Students will build knowledge and understanding of watersheds, salmon habitat needs, and human impacts on salmon habitat. Students will pledge to improve stewardship behavior and to share this information with parents/guardians. Teacher participants will increase their local knowledge and understanding of salmon habitat needs and challenges they face including stormwater pollution. Teachers will collaborate with peers and practice guiding students through quality outdoor stewardship activities.

#### Salmon Heroes Outcomes:

During our fall 2022 field season, Salmon Heroes will reach 115 classes (approximately 2,750 students). During the fall 2023 field season, Salmon Heroes will reach an additional 115 classes (230 classes total and 5,500 students). Student assessments ask them to define a healthy habitat and ways they can take personal action to keep the watershed healthy and protect the habitat. Salmon Heroes will be deemed successful if 70% of students show 1) increased knowledge of the concepts covered and 2) improved social responsibility. A minimum of 40 teacher participants will acquire strategies to implement standards-correlated lessons involving quality outdoor experiences for students. In addition, teacher participants will deliver powerful learning experiences using a physical tool kit that supports outdoor learning.

#### General Salmon Heroes Timeline:

- Early Fall: Edit curriculum, recruit classes (reach out to schools with more than 45% of students qualifying for free and reduced-priced meals first), hire and train naturalists

- Fall and Winter: Teach Salmon Heroes program to south King County schools (1-hour pre-classroom program, 3-hour field study, 1-hour post-classroom program, stewardship action project)
- Late Winter: Analyze teacher evaluations, student pre- and post-assessments, debrief naturalists, and write program reports, recruit teachers for professional development workshop series
- Late Winter/Early Spring: Teach Salmon Heroes teacher PD workshop series to south King County teachers
- Spring: Analyze teacher evaluations, distribute stipends and STEM clock hours, and write program reports

#### COVID-19 Adaptations:

During the 2020-21 school year, ESC staff and naturalists adapted both programs to a completely virtual format. The program was still offered in distinct sections either through live classes taught over Zoom or through short pre-recorded video segments. Field studies were live-streamed directly from the rivers/beaches to still allow students to experience the environment. ESC has continued to use this model or adapt as needed if it is not safe to bring students to off-site field trips.

## Project Activities and Measurable Results\*

List specific project activities to be completed with KCD grant funds and the associated outcomes or measurable results, and timeline.

ESCs' Salmon Heroes and Beach Heroes programs will reach 8,700 students over two years (April 2022-February 2024). Each program will contain both classroom lessons and field study components at local beaches and rivers/streams detailed above.

Both Beach Heroes and Salmon Heroes students will take a pledge at the end of their program to take action to protect and conserve their local environment. To honor their commitment, they receive a pledge card they can take home. Students also bring home a flyer to caregivers to share what they learned and encourage more stewardship within the family. This flyer is translated into multiple languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Somali) and includes guiding questions to further foster inquiry and discussion at home.

#### Program Evaluation and Outcomes/Measurements:

To evaluate both programs, ESC staff will utilize a combination of student pre- and post-assessments, teacher surveys, and informal staff and partner debriefs. All participating students (for both Beach Heroes and Salmon Heroes) are asked to complete a pre-assessment before/at the beginning of the first visit. The assessment asks students to draw a healthy habitat (beach or salmon specific depending on the program). Having students express their knowledge by drawing pictures instead of only using words allows us to reduce language barriers for students who are English Language Learners (approximately 26% of our target audience). An additional stewardship piece asks students to describe three stewardship behaviors important to environmental health. After students participate in the program, they complete a post-assessment which is the exact same as the pre-assessment. Students are also given the opportunity to participate in a pledge to personally take responsibility for actions that improve the health of local habitats.

Teachers will also be asked to fill out a survey to ensure that the program meets academic needs and is successful in engaging their students. Feedback from teachers and program staff is continuously collected so that immediate improvements can be made when necessary. At the end of every season, we hold a debrief session with our staff and partners to assess the program. All feedback and evaluation results are taken into account while making curriculum revisions for the next year.

#### Proposed Outcome 1:

Students and teachers in south King County will participate in the Salmon Heroes and Beach Heroes program to help connect with and better understand their local nearshore and stream/river environments.

**Measurements:** 160 classes (approximately 3,200 students) will participate in the nearshore-focused environmental education program, Beach Heroes, during the spring seasons of 2022 and 2023. 30 of those classes (approximately 600 students) will take part in the Advanced Beach Heroes shoreline monitoring community science project. 230 classes (approximately 5,500 students) will participate in the river-focused environmental education program, Salmon Heroes, during the fall seasons of 2022 and 2023. An additional 40 teachers will participate in the complimentary Salmon Heroes-focused teacher professional development workshop series.

**Proposed Outcome 2:**

Students in south King County will gain a deeper understanding of these environments and understand stewardship actions they can take to protect the waters of the Salish Sea.

**Measurements:** At least 70% of students will improve both their knowledge of the nearshore/river habitats and knowledge of stewardship actions based on classroom and field experiences.

**Proposed Outcome 3:**

Teachers in south King County will have access to state and local curriculum supported field experiences and increased confidence to incorporate outdoor environmental action projects on their school campuses.

**Measurements:** At least 80% of teachers will rate the programs as effective in aligning to curriculum standards, educating their students, and inspiring stewardship actions. At least 80% of teacher professional development participants will increase their confidence in leading schoolyard environmental action projects.

**Program Timeline:**

Beach Heroes is taught during the spring months of March-June and Salmon Heroes is taught from September-January. The complimentary teacher professional development workshop series occurs March-May. A detailed timeline for both programs can be found below.

**March 2022:**

Teachers from south King County School Districts will register for the Beach Heroes program. Registration will be offered first to schools where over 75% of students qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Meals (FRPM). A second tier of registration will be open to schools where 45-75% qualify for FRPM. ESC will review and edit curriculum materials and seasonal naturalists will be hired and trained for the program. Packets of materials, translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, and Amharic, will be printed and assembled for distribution to registered students. Materials will include Beach Heroes field journals and family take-home letters. All materials will also be available for download for free on our website. Teachers from the Salmon Heroes program will have the opportunity to sign up for a free professional development workshop series beginning in March 2022.

**April through June 2022:**

Students will participate in an introductory classroom lesson and a 2-hour field study to Seahurst Beach. 2nd and 3rd grade students will participate in the Advanced Beach Heroes community science project during their field trip. All students will pick up trash at Seahurst during their field study. At the completion of the Professional Development workshop series, teacher attendees will complete their program evaluation and receive the STEM clock hours, stipends, and classroom materials to help lead successful schoolyard environmental action projects.

**June through July 2022:**

ESC will evaluate the program using teacher surveys and student assessments. The student assessment will be picture/drawing-based to allow us to reduce language barriers for students who are English Language Learners. Student stewardship drawings will be highlighted both on ESC's social media and in print outside our building for all park visitors to see.

**August 2022:**

Teachers from south King County School Districts will register for the Salmon Heroes program. Registration will be offered first to schools where over 75% of students qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Meals (FRPM). A second tier of registration will be open to schools where 45-75% qualify for FRPM. ESC will

review and edit curriculum materials and seasonal naturalists will be hired and trained for the program. Packets of materials, translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, and Amharic, will be printed and assembled for distribution to registered students. Materials will include Salmon Heroes field journals and family take-home letters. All materials will also be available for download for free on our website.

September 2022 through January 2023:

Students will participate in all three parts of the Salmon Heroes program: an introductory classroom lesson, a 3-hour field study to a local river, and a synthesis classroom lesson. Additional classes will have the option of participating in a schoolyard stewardship action project with assistance from ESC. Teachers will have the option to sign up for a professional development workshop series to help guide this work.

January through February 2023:

ESC will evaluate the Salmon Heroes program using teacher surveys and student assessments. The student assessment will be picture/drawing-based to allow us to reduce language barriers for students who are English Language Learners.

\*Timeline will be repeated from March 2023-February 2024\*

## Project Budget and Expenses\*

Fill out and upload separate Application Budget Form also available on the KCD Member Jurisdiction Grant Program website. Budget must be detailed with footnotes, appropriate and reasonable, *meeting state auditor/GAAP guidelines. Please do not use forms from previous applications. Please only upload the form linked above. Thank you!*

2022-ESC-KCD-Member-Jurisdiction-Grant-Program-Application-Budget-Form.xlsx

## Member Jurisdiction Authorization Letter

If you are a nonprofit organization seeking Member Jurisdiction funding, you must upload written authorization from the Member Jurisdiction to apply for funding. This can be in the form of a letter or scanned copy of an email.

ESC Member Jurisdictions Letters of Support 2022.pdf

## Additional Attachments

Upload any photos or maps of your project here. Only one file will be accepted. Please combine multiple files into one if possible.

2022 ESC KCD program supplemental materials.pdf

## *Natural Resource Improvement Actions- Criteria Checklist*

**You must select at least one natural resource improvement action, otherwise your application is not eligible.** However, please only select "yes" below the action that your project **directly** addresses.

## Direct Improvement of Natural Resource Conditions\*

To improve landscape and natural resource conditions as a result of direct action that enhances water quality, protects and conserves soils, implements ecosystem restoration and preservation projects (*examples include supporting private property owners with land stewardship, water quality, aquatic and wildlife habitat resources, removal of invasive weeds, stewardship on public land*)

Does your project directly address this issue?

No

## Education and Outreach\*

To raise awareness, deepen knowledge, and change behaviors of residents, landowners, and other land managers and organizations to practice exemplary stewardship of natural resources (*examples include education about stormwater management; the value of farmland, local farms and food systems, shorelines, salmon habitat, forests and other ecosystems*)

Does your project directly address this issue?

Yes

## Pilot and Demonstration Projects\*

To test and/or improve concepts and/or approaches in natural resource management that can be replicated by others (*examples include low impact development or green infrastructure demonstration projects, development of new best management practices, distribution of local farm products, urban agriculture (e.g. farmers markets and backyard food production to promote or support social economic independence and healthy living); technological innovation for natural resource conservation*)

Does your project directly address this issue?

No

## Capacity Building\*

To enhance the ability of organizations, agencies, residential landowners and other land owners and managers to have knowledge, skills, tools, support systems and technical resources to implement exemplary best management practices and deliver natural resource management actions on the ground (*examples include urban agriculture development, assistance to and inclusion of private property owners, preservation, restoration, and/or expansion of urban and/or rural agricultural lands, rural and urban forest lands, riparian restoration and stewardship on private and public lands*)

Does your project directly address this issue?

No

## Project Type\*

Education

## ***KCD Acknowledgement and Signature***

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By signing below, the applicant agrees to acknowledge King Conservation District funding by placing the KCD-provided logo on signs, materials, and documents produced as part of the above proposal. In addition, the applicant will notify KCD of public events and activities funded by the KCD.

\*

I have read the above paragraph about acknowledging KCD and I will use the provided logo.

### **Authorized Applicant Electronic Signature\***

Please enter your full name to sign and agree to the above.

Kelly Steffen

### **Title**

Grants and Programs Manager

### **Date\***

03/17/2022



## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- 2022-ESC-KCD-Member-Jurisdiction-Grant-Program-Application-Budget-Form.xlsx
- ESC Member Jurisdictions Letters of Support 2022.pdf
- 2022 ESC KCD program supplemental materials.pdf



## Member Jurisdiction Grant Program

### Grant Application Project Budget Form

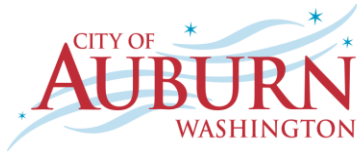
Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources  
through responsible stewardship

Project Name	Environmental Heroes 2022-23: Improving Watershed Health Through Education and Outreach										
Applicant	Environmental Science Center										
Contact	Kelly Steffen										
Mailing Address	126 SW 148th Street, Suite C100-90, Burien, WA 98166										
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Kelly@EnvironmentalScienceCenter.org">Kelly@EnvironmentalScienceCenter.org</a>									Project Start Date:	4/1/2022
Phone	206-248-4266									Project End Date:	2/29/2024

Please provide detailed budget information below. Itemize categories such as supplies, contracted services with footnotes and detailed descriptions below

Budget Item	KCD Funds	Auburn	Burien	Des Moines	Kent	Normandy Park	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila	Other Funds	Other Funds	Total
										(Secured Funding: King County Flood Control District WRIA 9, King County WaterWorks grant, Port of Seattle - South King County Fund, WA RCO - No Child Left Inside Fund)	(Pending Funding: King County Flood Control District WRIA 8, EPA EE grant, Moccasin Lake Foundation, The Russell Family Foundation; In progress: Snoqualmie Tribe, Horizons Foundation, Individual Donations)	
Salaries & Benefits	\$35,800	\$4,231	\$9,707	\$5,176	\$7,360	\$215	\$3,903	\$4,164	\$1,044	\$173,731	\$100,735	\$346,066
Travel/ Meals/ Mileage (for volunteers, staff)	\$1,200	\$142	\$325	\$174	\$247	\$7	\$131	\$139	\$35	\$12,500	\$5,200	\$20,100
												\$0
												\$0
												\$0
Office Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
												\$0
												\$0
Field Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,410	\$10,190	\$28,600
Contracted/ Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
Permits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
Other: indirect costs	\$3,000	\$355	\$813	\$434	\$617	\$18	\$327	\$349	\$87	\$17,637	\$86,693	\$110,330
Other: (specify)		\$4,728	\$10,845	\$5,784	\$8,224	\$240	\$4,361	\$4,652	\$1,166			
Other: (specify)												\$0
Other: (specify)												\$0
Other: (specify)												\$0
TOTAL	\$40,000									\$222,278	\$202,818	\$465,096

Total Project Cost	\$465,096
Total Match	\$425,096
Amount of KCD Funding Requested	\$40,000
Match Percentage	91%



Nancy Backus, Mayor

25 West Main Street \* Auburn WA 98001-4998 \* [www.auburnwa.gov](http://www.auburnwa.gov) \* 253-931-3000

January 20, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach. With the partnership of the Environmental Science Center, we will engage students in watershed and water quality issues in south King County.

The city of Auburn is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Auburn will contribute \$4,728 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Tate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Tate  
Director of Community Development  
City of Auburn  
253-804-5036



City of Burien  
400 SW 152nd Street  
Suite 300  
Burien, WA 98166-1911

P 206.241.4647  
F 206.248.5539

[burienwa.gov](http://burienwa.gov)

February 23, 2022

Joanna Stodden  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's Beach Heroes program. With the support of the Environmental Science Center (ESC), students, teachers, and families will engage in an environmental stewardship program which improves the quality of life and livability of our community. ESC is located within a Burien Park and has worked with Burien Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services since inception in 2000. The Beach Heroes program is a high-quality environmental education program that ESC has provided to the surrounding public schools for years. We feel that ESC supports the City of Burien's goals to continue to foster a vibrant and creative community where residents embrace diversity, celebrate arts and culture, promote vitality, and treasure the environment. The Beach Heroes program helps us in the effort to educate the public on respecting our natural resources, protecting our waterways, and learning about the importance of nearshore habitat and alternatives to seawalls.

Our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and Public Works Department work with ESC on a variety of topics and programs throughout the year. Their use of our facilities aligns with our goals and encourages a broad audience to utilize these public resources.

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center. The city of Burien is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Burien will contribute \$10,845 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

Sincerely,  
*Casey Stanley*

Casey Stanley  
Recreation Manager, City of Burien



# City of Des Moines

PLANNING, BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS  
www.desmoineswa.gov  
21650 11TH AVENUE SOUTH  
DES MOINES, WASHINGTON 98198-6317  
(206) 870-6522 FAX (206) 870-6596



March 15, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach. With the partnership of the Environmental Science Center, we will engage students in watershed and water quality issues in south King County.

The city of Des Moines is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Des Moines will contribute \$5,784 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

3/15/2022

Andrew Merges, PE, Executive MPA  
Public Works Director



**OPERATIONS**

Garin Lee  
Superintendent  
220 4th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032  
Fax: 253-856-6120

**PHONE: 253-856-5131**

---

March 11, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach. With the partnership of the Environmental Science Center, we will engage students in watershed and water quality issues in south King County.

The city of Kent is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Kent will contribute \$8,224 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garin Lee", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Garin Lee  
Park Operations Superintendent  
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Dept.  
City of Kent



January 31, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach. With the partnership of the Environmental Science Center, we will engage students in watershed and water quality issues in south King County.

The City of Normandy Park is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Normandy Park will contribute \$240 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Arrington".

Amy Arrington  
City Manager

Armondo Pavone  
Mayor



---

**Parks & Recreation** Kelly Beymer, Administrator

March 1, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach. With the partnership of the Environmental Science Center, we will engage students in watershed and water quality issues in south King County.

The city of Renton is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Renton will contribute \$4,361 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie Nass".

CARRIE NASS, MPH  
CITY OF RENTON | PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT | Recreation Division Director  
[cnass@rentonwa.gov](mailto:cnass@rentonwa.gov) | 425-282-9367 (call/text)  
***Creating an active, vibrant, connected community!***





January 27, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach. With the partnership of the Environmental Science Center, we will engage students in watershed and water quality issues in south King County.

The city of SeaTac is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of SeaTac will contribute \$4,652 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Dan Smith  
City of Seatac Public Works  
Maintenance Operations Supervisor  
(206) 973-4778  
[dsmith@seatacwa.gov](mailto:dsmith@seatacwa.gov)



**City of Tukwila**

Allan Ekberg, Mayor

Public Works Department – Hari Ponnekanti, Director/City Engineer

February 24, 2022

Joanna Stodden, Executive Director  
Environmental Science Center  
126 SW 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C100-90  
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: Letter of Commitment as Partner for the Environmental Heroes grant**

Dear Ms. Stodden:

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Science Center's King Conservation District's Member Jurisdiction grant application - *Environmental Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Through Education and Outreach*. With their excellent *Salmon Heroes* and *Beach Heroes* classes, the Environmental Science Center will engage students in south King County and within our city in salmon habitat, watershed and water quality issues in fun hands-on and in-class settings (following established Covid safety protocols).

The city of Tukwila is authorizing the Environmental Science Center to apply for the member jurisdiction grant. The city of Tukwila will contribute \$1,166 of its King Conservation District's funding towards the two-year project (2022-2023).

I am excited to support this proposal by the Environmental Science Center and pledge our commitment to work collaboratively toward this project. We believe our support and commitment will significantly improve students' knowledge of water quality issues and increase positive stewardship behaviors supporting a healthier watershed for all. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mike Perfetti, PLA  
Surface Water Sr. Program Manager

Cc: Heidi Waters, City of Tukwila Urban Environmentalist

Olena Perry, City of Tukwila Volunteer and Events Specialist



**Beach Heroes Videos:**

<https://youtu.be/YMQNsvivXYM>

**Beach Heroes Images:**



ESC naturalists guide students on a gentle exploration of a low tide to learn more about the animals and plants that live on our beaches and how to take care of them.



Virtual field lessons live-streamed the field site directly to students over Zoom.



## **Salmon Heroes Videos:**

**Salmon Heroes Field Study:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSPCehu-OjQ>

**Salmon Heroes Virtual Field Study:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALzcfiLRu2Q>

## **Salmon Heroes Images:**

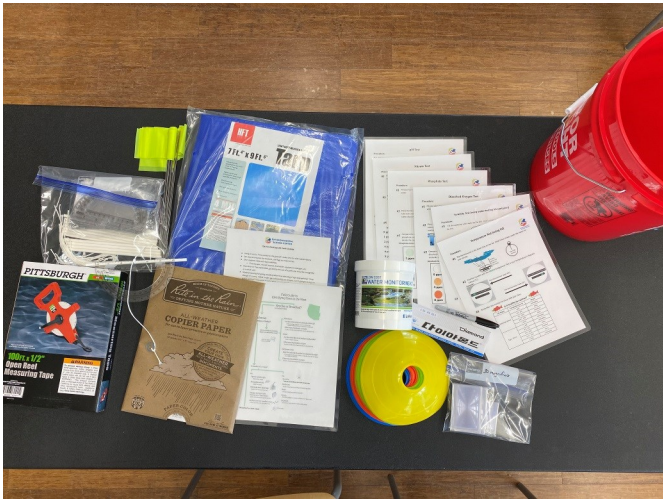


Students test the quality of the water and use observation skills to analyze the health of the habitat during three-hour field studies.



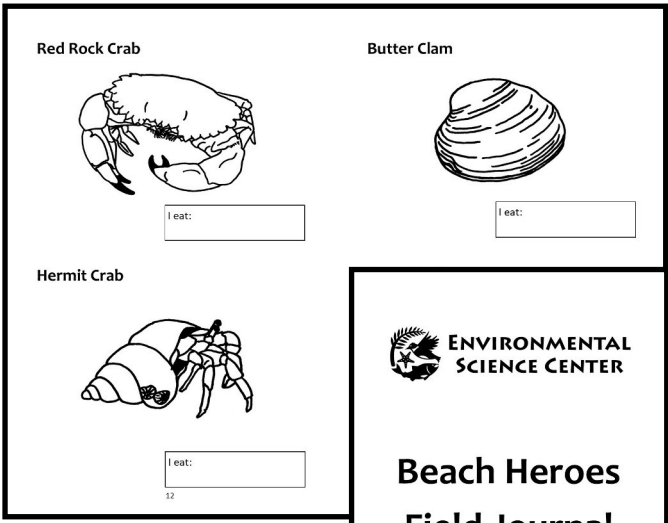
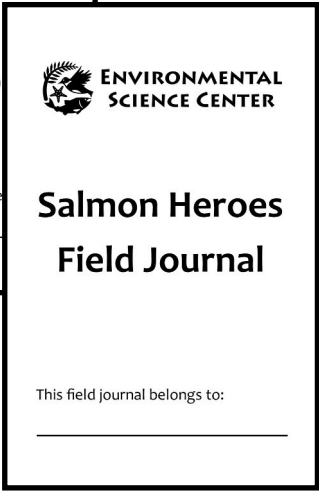
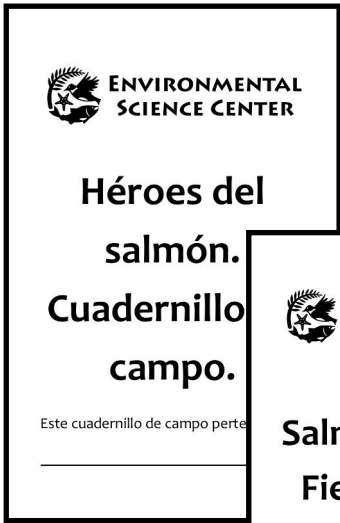
Virtual field lessons live-streamed the field site directly to students over Zoom.

**Salmon Heroes Teacher Professional Development Images:**



Teachers were given valuable materials to help with outdoor schoolyard investigations and time to practice using them during the Salmon Heroes teacher workshop series.

**Field Study Student Journals:**





## Beach Heroes take home flyer (also translated into different languages)



### Learn About Your Child's Recent Virtual Field Trip to the Beach!

#### What did your child do?

Your child learned about plants and animals they might meet at Seahurst Beach. They also used their field guides to fill in cool facts about the organisms on the beach.

They then visited Seahurst Beach virtually and saw organisms that are normally underwater—uncovered by the low tide! During the field trip, your child made observations, discovered new organisms, and became official Beach Heroes!



#### OFFICIAL BEACH HERO



- \* **S**tep carefully
- \* **T**ouch gently with two wet fingers
- \* **A**nimals stay where you find them
- \* **R**emove only trash
- \* **S**hare what you learned!



#### Want to visit the beach at low tide?

Go to <https://envsciencecenter.org/learn/>

- There are many days this summer where the tide will be low during the day (see the yellow highlighted dates in the calendars on the right). Go to our website and look up the **TIDE CHART** for more details on times!
- Download the **MARINE LIFE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE** to help with your discoveries.

And remember to be beach **STARS** when you visit!!

2021 MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2021 JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2021 JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Your child's experience was made possible by the generous gifts of people just like you! Funding also comes from:

*\*grant logos shown here\**

#### Learning for the entire family!

Located at Seahurst Park in Burien, we not only offer classroom programs, but free family programs for all ages! Check out our upcoming programs at

**[EnvironmentalScienceCenter.Org](https://EnvironmentalScienceCenter.Org)**



## Salmon Heroes take home flyer (also translated into different languages)



### Learn About Your Child's Recent Salmon Field Trip !

#### What did your child do?

1. In the classroom your child learned about the salmon lifecycle and what they need in their habitats.
2. Then your child visited a creek (virtually or in-person) to test water quality, dissect a salmon, and explore some of the native plants that provide shade and food for salmon.
3. Back in the classroom, your child analyzed the water quality data to see if the stream was healthy for salmon and other wildlife. They then brainstormed ways they can help salmon by improving their local habitats!

#### OFFICIAL SALMON HERO

S - Save the trees  
T - Turn off the lights  
R - Ride your bike  
E - Every poop, you scoop  
A - All natural gardening  
M - Make sure only rain down the storm drain  
S - Share what you learned!!



*Students take a pledge to become official Salmon Heroes. What can you do to stop stormwater pollution and help salmon?*



#### Want to see salmon at a local river?

You and your child can spot salmon locally on many local rivers and streams every fall! Go to King County's website to learn more about Salmon SEE-son:

<http://bit.ly/salmonseeson>

**Your child's experience  
was made possible by the  
generous gifts of people  
just like you!**

*\*grant logos shown here\**

Funding also comes from:

#### Learning for the entire family!

Located at Seahurst Park in Burien, we not only offer classroom programs, but free family programs for all ages! Find out about our upcoming programs at

**EnvironmentalScienceCenter.Org**





# King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Grant Agreement Close Out

## Grant Summary Information

**Recipient:** Hip Hop is Green

**Project Title:** Cherry Street Farm, Lab & Culinary Anthropology

**Project Description:** Cherry Street Farm, Lab & Culinary Project is a food security, food justice, health equity oriented, urban farm/teaching lab with greenhouse, onsite kitchen and community gathering space. Through a STEM lens, paid BIPOC youth interns learn to be environmental stewards while building community through a hands-on, immersive experience in building a garden, taking Culinary Anthropology cooking classes, communing with nature, growing and sharing food with people in need via food box distribution.

**Funding Source and Year:** 2020 KCD-Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program

**Start Date:** 03/06/2021

**End Date:** 3/4/2023

**Date Awarded:** 01/12/2021

## Grant Budget Summary

## Returned Funds:

## Payment Summary

Award Amount:

\$71,747.00

Amount Returned:

\$n/a

Amount Paid to Date:

\$52,159.64

Amount Spent:

\$71,747.00

Date Returned:

n/a

Final Payment: Date:

\$19,587.36

## Amendment Request Summary:

Yes N/A Notes:

Scope of Work Revision:

☐
☒

Revised to reflect actual expenditures

Budget Revision:

☒
☐

Extended to:

Completion Date Extension:

☐
☒

## Copies of Work Product (check box or describe below)

☐ Designs/Plans

☒ Brochures/Publications

☐ Curricula

☒ Photos

☐ Video

☐ Sign Mock-Ups

Other: **Booklet – Hip Hop is Green Youth Excellence Program (YEP) Climate Change Makers 2021 Climate Change Internship Curriculum**

**KCD Acknowledgement:** KCD funding was acknowledged on our HHIG website, brochures, program t-shirts, and keep sake YEP program booklet.

**Site Visit**

Date:

N/A: ☒



Description:

### Planting Projects:

Maintenance/Monitoring

Needs to be tracked: ☐

Ongoing until: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed: ☐ N/A: ☒

### Reporting Summary:

Yes

No

Notes:

Progress Reports: ☒ ☐ Submitted on the following dates 05/26/2021, 11/15/2021, 02/11/2022

Expense Reports: ☒ ☐

Final Reports: ☒ ☐

### Project Accomplishments and Successes

(The following is combined information from submitted final progress and narrative reports)

#### Building Healthy Soil

##### Repurposing a vacant lot to teach classes on organic farming practices to interns

- Architectural design drafts completed for Cherry Street Farms. 3 D Video complete of farm design with culinary lab included and payment made for freight farm container. Keith is currently being trained on how to effectively operate his freight farm. Container delivery should take place within the next couple of months.

##### Teaching students how to soil test, how to read test results and about components of soil health

- 26 of our Interns participated in soil testing with Dr. Melanie Malone Assistant Professor School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences on December 4, 2021. Dr. Malone led a demonstration of soil sampling with youth.
- They learned what contaminants to sample for, how to properly label and send samples to the lab. They received a soil testing toolkit to share with their communities. The learning objectives were to understand how to safely collect soil samples, how to not contaminate the sample while collecting and what contaminants are important to sample for and will likely be found based on site history. UW graduate students were present to help the highschoolers sample.
- Discussion and post interviews took place after soil testing and their knowledge was tested over results of soil. Interns enjoyed learning the importance of quality soil

#### Supporting a sustainable food system

##### Increased students' knowledge about how to cook, grow and plan healthy, culturally relevant foods and meals

- Several discussions regarding this issue took place but the actual teaching portion by demonstrating in a kitchen will take place in our kitchen lab that will occur in the next phase of our program. However, plant-based foods were introduced at our weekly meetings and at our Eat to Live Field trip event. Chef Tariq (Feed the People) and Keith made a buffet style of easy to make plant-based meals to demonstrate the myths around plant-based meals and their taste.
- Rebellyous Foods presentation and factory tour with interns explaining how and the importance of making sustainable plant-based foods. Rebellyous Foods makes plant-based nuggets that are similar in taste and texture as regular chicken nuggets.
- Upon further discussion and consideration. We decided not to implement the Phresh Box program but instead implement a hot food ready to go meal program for insecure community members while teaching our youth to cook and serve the plant-based meals to those in our community in need.

#### Jobs, Local Econ and Youth Pathways

### **Employ 30 BIPOC youth paid with stipends, develop career skills of youth**

- 34 of youth employed
- YEP, was a total success. At one time during our program, we had over 30 BIPOC Youth participating and several youths on our waiting list in case someone dropped out or was no longer able to participate. We ended with 27 of them by the time our program concluded. Students learned so much in this program and showed measurable outcomes by changing their diets and their ways of thinking about climate change and food injustice.
- Career development was touched on at every single meeting and field trip. The importance of attendance and doing your best while employed was emphasized on all levels throughout the program for this BIPOC youth group
- Our Interns participated in the following career paths: Gov't advocacy, Food Tech Industry, Engineering, and Environmental Oceanography. Discussions took place at every meeting and field trip regarding career development and the importance of working in a collaborative way.
- An MVP Award was given to the intern that showed the most leadership in our program. A vote took place amongst their peers and both Keith and I also voted on the MVP award. The MVP was judged on the categories of: Attendance, leadership, teamwork, knowledge of concepts, and overall participation in the program.

### **Engaging new partners - 7 Engaged partners**

- Clean Greens
- Heartwood Haven
- UW Oceanography Department
- Pasado's Safe Haven
- Foterra
- Rebellyous Foods
- Chef Tariq - Feed the People

A lot of our partners attended our YEP graduation ceremony on 12/11/21 and spoke about the programs curriculum and many wanted to find out if it could be duplicated in Seattle public schools.

### **Obstacles and Challenges**

Due to timing, farm construction, and supply chain issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were unable to meet the following outcomes. Interns learning to compost, green roof installation, Intern culinary learning in community kitchen, and we decided to not implement the phresh box program but instead implement a hot food program for community members in need.

#### **Teaching students about composting**

- Unable to complete because of the construction taking place on the farm. But will take place down the line in subsequent phases. They were able to have an in-depth session on soil testing.

#### **Installing cisterns and green roof on community kitchen**

- Construction of retaining wall took longer than anticipated so our community center kitchen will take place in our subsequent phases of our program.

### **Evaluation Tools**

Yes the evaluation tools were very helpful with accessing our youth knowledge on concepts learned through out our program.

### **Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects**

We learned that communication and planning with all parties is essential and vital to running a successful project. Forward thinking and quick problem solving is key to being successful.

One of our field trips was cancelled last minute but Keith came up with a solution that actually worked out better than our initial field trip.

The lack of vaccinations created challenges with consultants and some of the student participants.

### Long-term Sustainability

Our long-term sustainability to plan consists of interns, community volunteers, and HHIG employees will maintain our farm and community kitchen. However, it is necessary for us to have additional funding for completion of our full farm buildout and lab project that includes our community kitchen.

KCD grant dollars paid for:

Field trip transportation and gas to farms

Youth stipends ranging from \$300-500

Chef and food for cooking demonstration and healthy eating training

Meeting and event room rentals

Partial payment on shipping container (25% first deposit)

Travel to visit hydroponic farm

Video camera equipment

PPE

Postage, supplies for soil sampling

*I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been paid, and the final report has been received by the District.*

\_\_\_\_\_,  
District Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been reported, and the final report has been completed and submitted to the District.*

*Cetris R. Tucker*

Cetris R. Tucker (Mar 18, 2022 18:07 PDT)

Grant Recipient

Name:

Cetris

Title:

Date: Mar 18, 2022



# King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Grant Agreement Close Out

## Grant Summary Information

Recipient: King County

Project Title: 2021 Keeping Farmers Farming, King County Agriculture Program

**Project Description:** The goal of the KC Agriculture Program, supported with KCD funding, is to conserve farmland and agricultural soils, increase the economic success of farm enterprises, improve farm management practices to protect soil, water quality and wildlife.

Funding Source and Year: KCD-King County 2020-2021 Funds

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Date Awarded: 07/22/2021

## Grant Budget Summary

## Returned Funds:

## Payment Summary

Award Amount:	\$172,300	Amount Returned:	\$n/a	Amount Paid to Date:	\$114,545.32 8/20/21
Amount Spent:	\$172,300	Date Returned:	n/a	Final Payment: Date:	57,754.68 After KCD signs this form

## Amendment Request Summary:

Yes N/A Notes:

Scope of Work Revision: ☐ ☒ To reflect actual expenditures

Budget Revision: ☒ ☐

Completion Date Extension: ☐ ☒ Extended to:

## Copies of Work Product (check box or describe below)

☐ Designs/Plans ☐ Brochures/Publications ☐ Curricula

☒ Photos ☐ Video ☐ Sign Mock-Ups

Other:

**KCD Acknowledgement:** KCD funding is acknowledged on the Agriculture Program web pages and the resource webpage for Farmers Market Managers. KCD funding is also acknowledged on project sheets, such as the immigrant/refugee farming community assessment report. We often communicate the role of KCD and the valuable partnership with King County agriculture programs in presentations, including regular presentations to the KC Agriculture Commission, and written communications, such as the LFI newsletter.

## Site Visit

Date:

N/A: ☐

Description:

**Planting Projects:**

Maintenance/Monitoring

Needs to be tracked: ☐

Ongoing until: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed: ☐ N/A: ☐**Reporting Summary:** Yes No Notes:Progress Reports: ☒ ☐Expense Reports: ☒ ☐Final Reports: ☒ ☐**Project Accomplishments and Successes**

1. Provide technical support to Working Farmland Partnership.

**Accomplishments**

- Served on all WFP teams and committees and supported transition of program responsibility to Washington Farmland Trust.
- Supported project teams focused on securing farmers for Horseneck Farm (17 new I/R farmers), Sammamish Farm (Black Farmers Collective expansion), Issaquah Creek Farm (new individual farmer) and Green River Road Farm (2 individual farmers who had lost leases on their existing farms).
- Focused significant KC resources and coordinated with partners to provide those new farmers with assistance to launch/expand their farm businesses.
- Served as lead for the WFP Land Matching Working Group while Washington Farmland Trust WFP lead was on extended leave.
- Assessed "farmable but unfarmed" parcels in Upper/Lower Green River APDs, to identify potential new farm acquisitions.

2. Enhance farming activities on King County-owned farmland

**Accomplishments**

- Met with individual farmers and community organizations that lease King County-owned farmland to ensure we captured their infrastructure/farm management needs in the initial draft of 5-year infrastructure improvement plan; plan is dynamic and regularly updated.
- Continued development of a King County "farmland program vision" that clarifies how County-owned lands can best add value to the larger farming landscape. Vetted this vision with the King County Agriculture Commission and presented the concept to several other groups.
- Used revised 5-year infrastructure plan as a basis for a successful proposal for funding through the King County Climate Equity Capital Pool; \$1 million received for capital/infrastructure improvements on five core King County farms in 2022 and 2023. Farmers and community organizations played a key role in plan development and implementation.
- Horseneck Farm: disked and tilled initial 5 acres and worked with partner organizations to install temporary irrigation system; worked with community partners (International Rescue Committee, Living Well Kent, Wakulima, Elk Run Farm) to allocate initial 5 acres to approximately 17 farmers/farm businesses (10 countries of origin); installed solar powered, permit-exempt well for potable water; worked with habitat restoration teams and Parks Division to develop framework for multiple use on Horseneck Farm and adjacent Horsehead Bend Natural Area.
- Sammamish Farm: completed extension of Woodinville Water system onto farm (partially supported by a KCD Food Systems Grant); removed aging greenhouses to make room for temporary wash/pack station and new hoop house (permanent wash/pack station to be built in 2022); purchased "last mile" irrigation pipe and sprinklers for Black Farmers Collective and two individual farmers; constructed pad and temporary structures for wash/pack station; constructed new hoop house that will be shared by multiple farmers for flower/vegetable starts; delivered initial irrigation water via a temporary transfer of water right from King County's 60-Acre Recreation Complex upstream on Sammamish River, which enabled some farmers to grow food crops versus flowers.

- Green River Farm: coordinated reallocation of farmland and provided disking/tilling services for farmers who lacked access to tractor.
- Completed compost trials on Sammamish River Farm and Green River Farm in coordination with WSU Extension and DNRP Solid Waste Division; results of compost trial were very positive, and farmers would like greater access to compost in the future.
- Provided Hmong translation/interpretation services to KC Stormwater Services that was reaching out to farm owners in the County and worked with NRCS to develop an outreach plan for Hmong farmers in 2022.

3. Increase water availability for irrigation

Accomplishments

- Completed temporary transfer of a portion of the 60-Acre soccer complex water right downstream to Sammamish Farm (includes permits from Ecology and WDFW); farmers made initial use of available water (first irrigation water available to that farm in decades); met with all farmers to ensure they had access to needed delivery system and purchased pipe/sprinklers for those farmers who did not have what was needed and did not have available funding to cover the purchases; negotiated water-sharing agreement with Soccer Complex and consulted with farmers to ensure schedule meets their needs.
- Met with farmers and explored options to provide irrigation water to Green River Farm (options extremely limited and best possible short-term option is to install permit exempt well for starts and strategic irrigation).
- Worked with staff in Wastewater Treatment Division to further develop plans to deliver commercial quantities of recycled water to farmers in the Sammamish Valley; feasibility study for delivery expansion to be prepared in 2022 with options for direct delivery as well as indirect delivery via river withdrawals with replacement being considered.
- Participated in Ecology-led teams looking at available water rights to compensate for projected increase in residential withdrawals from future permit exempt wells; focused on preserving farmland water rights and downstream delivery to farms.
- Led a county-wide Irrigation Water Needs Assessment, guiding and supporting the consultant selected to complete the project (actual expenses for contractor were covered through a KCD Food System Grant); final report due end of Q1 2022.

4. Provide technical support, outreach and education to King County farmers

Accomplishments

- Updated FarmKingCounty.org frequently, which has included posting initial chapters of "Farm Practices Illustrated."
- Produced monthly Local Food Initiative newsletters that were highly regarded by recipients.
- Coordinated one meeting of KC Technical Assistance Team, which focused on networking among organizations providing support services to King County farmers. Also served this role one on one with organizations between meetings to leverage opportunities and avoid duplication.
- In spite of the "work from home" directive, ag staff continued to provide a high level of technical support for farmers and farmland owners; multiple landowner contacts per week to address issues related to farm business development, compliance with County land use code, farmland preservation and on-farm management issues

5. Coordinate development and implementation of a strategic plan to support immigrant/refugee farmers

Accomplishments

- Held partner meeting in January to advance development of the strategic plan and focused on land access strategies; plan revised as a result of that meeting.
- Began transitioning the existing tenant off Horseneck Farm, so the land was available to community organizations and socially disadvantaged farmers beginning 2021; worked with FAACT to develop a collaborative farming vision centered around this parcel; developed MOU and 5-Year Use Agreement to assist with site and farmer coordination; approximately 17 I/R farm businesses established in 2021; despite challenges all farmers and organizations were pleased with the outcome and want to return/expand operations in 2022.

- Released an RFP for the next phase of farmland transition on Horseneck Farm (minimum of 13 acres to be available in 2022). Three community organizations that support BIPOC farmers (International Rescue Committee, Living Well Kent and Wakulima) and one independent BIPOC farm business were awarded new/additional acreage for 2022.
- Added 20 acres of farmland to the County's farmland leasing program (Green River Road Farm) and awarded leases to two established BIPOC farm businesses that were losing leases on their current farm locations.
- Pursued acquisition of additional south County farmland for inclusion in our system of farms that support socially disadvantaged farmers; owners expressed willing to sell, acquisition funds secured, appraisals completed but appraised value not acceptable to owners; because latest negotiations fell through when private buyer was willing to pay significantly over appraised value; because immediate options are limited, considering reprogramming funding for more urban setting (e.g., White Center).
- Continued development of a King County "Farmland Leasing Program vision" that clarifies how County-owned lands can best add value to the larger farming landscape; draft was reviewed by KC Ag Commission and other partners.

### Regional Benefits

Provide technical support to Working Farmland Partnership and enhanced activities on KC owned farmland: We were able to focus significant KC resources and coordinated with partners to provide those new farmers with assistance to launch/expand their farm businesses. Assessed "farmable but unfarmed" parcels in Upper/Lower Green River APDs, to identify potential new farm acquisitions. Provided one to one assistance with individual farmers and community organizations that lease King County-owned farmland to ensure we captured their infrastructure/farm management needs in the initial draft of 5-year infrastructure improvement plan; plan is dynamic and regularly updated. Continued development of a King County "farmland program vision" that clarifies how County-owned lands can best add value to the larger farming landscape.

Increase water availability for irrigation: Completed temporary transfer of a portion of the 60-Acre soccer complex water right downstream to Sammamish Farm (includes permits from Ecology and WDFW); farmers made initial use of available water (first irrigation water available to that farm in decades); met with all farmers to ensure they had access to needed delivery system and purchased pipe/sprinklers for those farmers who did not have what was needed and did not have available funding to cover the purchases; negotiated water-sharing agreement with Soccer Complex and consulted with farmers to ensure schedule meets their needs. Met with farmers and explored options to provide irrigation water to Green River Farm (options extremely limited and best possible short-term option is to install permit exempt well for starts and strategic irrigation). Worked with staff in Wastewater Treatment Division to further develop plans to deliver commercial quantities of recycled water to farmers in the Sammamish Valley; feasibility study for delivery expansion to be prepared in 2022 with options for direct delivery as well as indirect delivery via river withdrawals with replacement being considered. Participated in Ecology-led teams looking at available water rights to compensate for projected increase in residential withdrawals from future permit exempt wells; focused on preserving farmland water rights and downstream delivery to farms. Led a county-wide Irrigation Water Needs Assessment, guiding and supporting the consultant selected to complete the project (actual expenses for contractor were covered through a KCD Food System Grant); final report due end of Q1 2022.

Provide technical support, outreach and education to King County farmers: Updated FarmKingCounty.org frequently, which has included posting initial chapters of "Farm Practices Illustrated."

Produced monthly Local Food Initiative newsletters that were highly regarded by recipients. Coordinated one meeting of KC Technical Assistance Team, which focused on networking among organizations providing support services to King County farmers. Also served this role one on one with organizations between meetings to leverage opportunities and avoid duplication.

Coordinate development and implementation of a strategic plan to support immigrant/refugee farmers: Began transitioning the existing tenant off Horseneck Farm, so the land was available to community organizations and socially disadvantaged farmers beginning 2021; worked with FAAC to develop a

collaborative farming vision centered around this parcel; developed MOU and 5-Year Use Agreement to assist with site and farmer coordination; approximately 17 I/R farm businesses established in 2021; despite challenges all farmers and organizations were pleased with the outcome and want to return/expand operations in 2022. Released an RFP for the next phase of farmland transition on Horseneck Farm (minimum of 13 acres to be available in 2022). Three community organizations that support BIPOC farmers (International Rescue Committee, Living Well Kent and Wakulima) and one independent BIPOC farm business were awarded new/additional acreage for 2022. Added 20 acres of farmland to the County's farmland leasing program (Green River Road Farm) and awarded leases to two established BIPOC farm businesses that were losing leases on their current farm locations. Continued development of a King County "Farmland Leasing Program vision" that clarifies how County-owned lands can best add value to the larger farming landscape; draft was reviewed by KC Ag Commission and other partners.

### **Obstacles and Challenges**

There are significant challenges that limit farmland access and demand for farmland among members of immigrant/refugee communities in King County is strong, especially in South King County.

Those farms need significant infrastructure upgrades to provide tenant farmers with the greatest chance for success and project prioritization should be driven by input from tenant farmers and community organizations (i.e., increased empowerment).

Traditionally underserved communities continue to lack trust in King County and other traditional agriculture partners, so it is critical that we show an ability to deliver on promises.

### **Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects**

#### **Lessons Learned**

- KCD investment in KC agriculture programs and programs led by partners is instrumental to moving a number of LCI priorities forward.
- There is a diverse and committed constituency who wants to see local agriculture expanded and local food more available.
- Working with individual farmers and community organizations has helped guide a "revisioning" of the County's Farmland Leasing Program.
- King County-owned farms play an important role in providing low-cost access to farmland and a focal point for technical support for I/R farmers struggling to establish a farm business in King County.
- Those farms need significant infrastructure upgrades to provide tenant farmers with the greatest chance for success and project prioritization should be driven by input from tenant farmers and community organizations (i.e., increased empowerment).
- Support for I/R, BIPOC and other socially disadvantaged farmers requires deep, dependable investment on the part of partners able to provide technical support.
- Members of the agricultural community are innovative and resilient, but some challenges are extreme and require significant technical and financial support (e.g., Covid-19 response).
- There is a continued need for additional focus on improving access to irrigation water.
- Recycled water and compost are valuable resources that can greatly support individual farm businesses; however, supply, cost and quality remain outstanding concerns. County-owned farms can serve as demonstration areas for a range of soil health and climate resiliency strategies.
- There should be a shift away from simply tracking acres in production toward a more focused, proactive, multi-partner approach to bringing farmland back into food production and connecting farmland owners with farmers looking for land to initiate/expand their farm business.
- Traditionally underserved communities continue to lack trust in King County and other traditional agriculture partners, so it is critical that we show an ability to deliver on promises.



- There is both desire and need for the County to provide longer-term leases so that tenants have security and a reason to invest in their business and farmland improvements. King County and partners need to invest in supporting farmers that have an interest and ability to expand their farm businesses onto larger plots, with a focus on assisting with efforts to lease private farmland and to help with obtaining ownership through alternative tenure models.

#### Recommendations

- Ensure long-term management capacity for King County-owned farms by converting the existing term-limited farm manager position to a career service position.
- Complete the farmland lease program vision document and present the recommendations to the King County Agriculture Commission and community organizations to strengthen support for the County's Farmland Leasing Program and to ensure that County-owned farmland adds significant value to the larger agricultural landscape.
- Work with urban constituents interested in local food to determine whether the County's agriculture program should invest in urban areas (beyond efforts to improve food access and to support farmers markets).
- Build on the recent success of transitioning the tenant structure on Horseneck Farm to support a growing number of BIPOC farmers more effectively on County-owned farmland.
- Address infrastructure improvement needs on King County farms in the next 3-5 years so that tenant farmers have an opportunity to build commercially successful farm businesses.
- Ensure that individual farm management plans for King County-owned farms include explicit strategies to improve soil health, enhance climate resiliency and increase carbon sequestration potential.
- Ensure that tenant farmers have an opportunity to review and provide input into development of KC's 5-year farm management plan and initiate actions that provide tenants and community organizations with a greater role in management decisions (i.e., increased empowerment).
- Extend farmland lease terms to at least 5 years and ensure that all targeted communities have the same level of access; explore opportunities to help farmers find long-term/permanent farmland once their business has been firmly established.
- Develop protocols and agreements for cooperative use of shared infrastructure on County-owned farmland (translated into multiple languages).
- Provide farmers with technical support and education about the broad spectrum of soil health/climate resiliency (e.g., high efficiency irrigation, compost and other organic amendment, cover cropping, dryland farming).

*I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been paid, and the final report has been received by the District.*

\_\_\_\_\_,  
District Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been reported, and the final report has been completed and submitted to the District.*

Maureen Dahlstrom,  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grant Recipient

Name: Maureen Dahlstrom

Title: Administrator

Date: March 21, 2022